



ITEM 14

**FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA GUIDELINES**

*130125. (3) The state commission shall, on at least an annual basis, periodically review its adopted guidelines and revise them as may be necessary or appropriate.*

**Purpose of Guidelines**

The purpose of the First 5 Guidelines is to assist County Commissions in the planning and design of a comprehensive, integrated strategic plan to implement the California Children and Families Act of 1998 (the Act). Over the last several years the Commission has taken major steps toward achieving their vision of “...all young children will reach age five physically & emotionally healthy, learning and ready to achieve their greatest potential in school.” The Commission has adopted “school readiness” as its overarching goal, adopted a three-year strategic plan, a set of Guiding Principles, a set of Equity Principles, and implemented a statewide data collection and evaluation process. In addition, the Commission is in the process of updating its *Results to be Achieved* document to reflect its strategic plan and vision. Taken together, these provide a framework for the development and implementation of First 5 California programs and initiatives. In reviewing the current Guidelines, it is evident that at this time it is important to update and revise the Guidelines to reflect and incorporate the Commission’s most recent efforts and direction.

**Revision of Guidelines**

The revision of the Guidelines will be undertaken by staff. This project will be a major revision to the Guidelines to reflect, as noted above, the major steps the Commission has taken the last several years. The Guidelines will assist County Commissions with the review and revisions of their county strategic plans. They are intended to support County Commissions in developing a comprehensive, integrated plan, and to guide an outcomes-based accountability approach to the investment opportunities afforded by the Act.

**Implementation Steps**

- Form work group of county and state commission staff to review and recommend changes
- Draft Guidelines
- Work group reviews and approves
  - edits and rewrites completed by consultant
- Guidelines taken to Commission for approval

Draft 10/3/03

**Budget**

Not to exceed the Executive Director's delegation.